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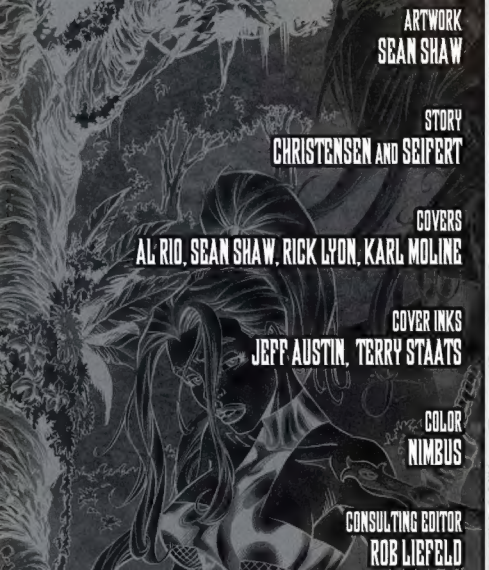

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REVELATION PRELUDE

Having vanquished the mysterious group of vampires known as the Ravening, Avengelyne takes a break on a cruise ship with her friends Anna Martelli and Tanya Nichols to plan what she is going to do next.

But this break proves to be the calm before the storm. The Earth Angel finds herself snatched from this pleasant respite, and transported through time and space to ancient Rome. She awakens not even quite sure of her own identity or power. Who could have done such a thing? And why?

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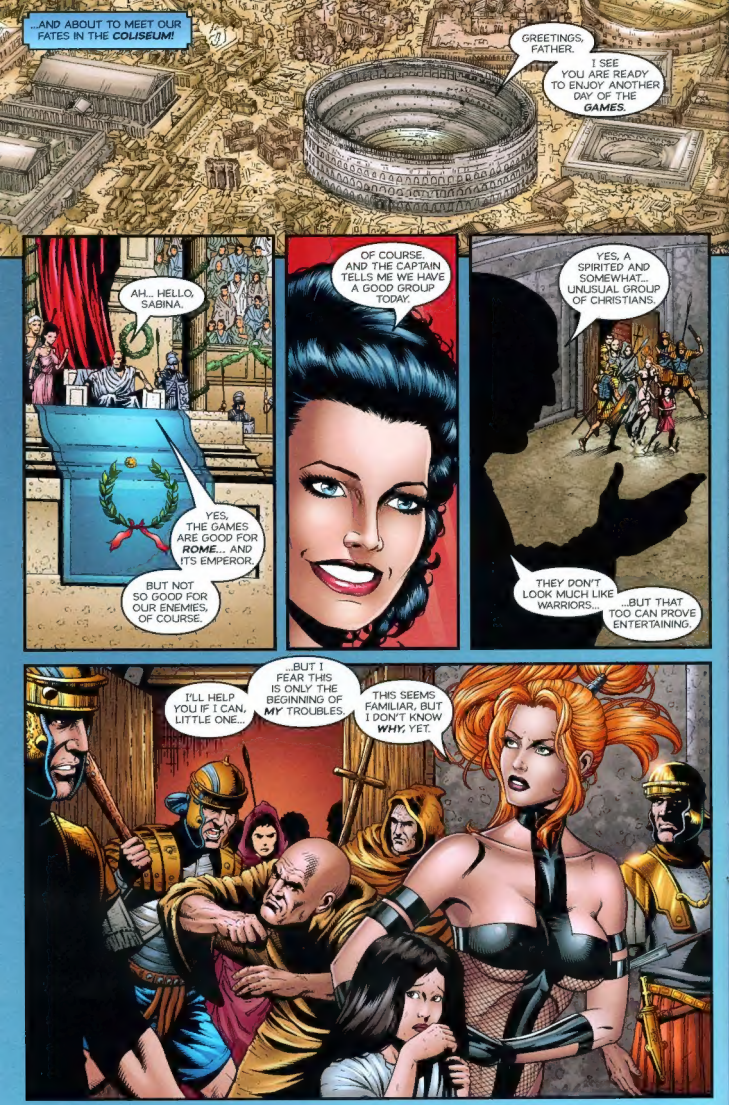
ANCIENT ROME, 92 AD.
SHE WAS NOT AMONG US WHEN THE SOLDIERS CAME.
AND HER CLOTHING... SO STRANGE.
THIS WOMAN IS NOT ONE OF US, THAT MUCH IS CERTAIN.
BUT I AM VERY MUCH AFRAID...

...THAT SHE IS DOOMED TO---
YOU WILL NOT BE THE ONE TO DOOM ME, HOODED ONE.
I SHALL--
WAIT! PLEASE.
I MEAN YOU NO HARM, I ONLY WANTED TO SEE IF YOU WERE HURT.
WHO ARE YOU?
I... I'M NOT SURE.
I WAS ON... A SHIP AFTER THAT I CAN'T REMEMBER.
WHO ARE YOU? WHERE ARE WE?

WE ARE *CHRISTIANS*.
THE ROMAN EMPEROR *PERSECUTES* US BECAUSE WE DO NOT WORSHIP HIM.
THIS PLACE IS ONE OF HIS *PRISONS*.
BUT IT WOULD SEEM WE WILL NOT BE *IMPRISONED* FOR MUCH LONGER!
IT'S TIME, CHRIST-LOVING FOOLS.
THE EMPEROR DEMANDS YOUR *PERFORMANCE* AT THE GAMES.
CAN IT BE?
THIS IS THE DOOM YOU SPOKE OF?
WE ARE AT THE *MERCY* OF THE ROMAN EMPEROR...

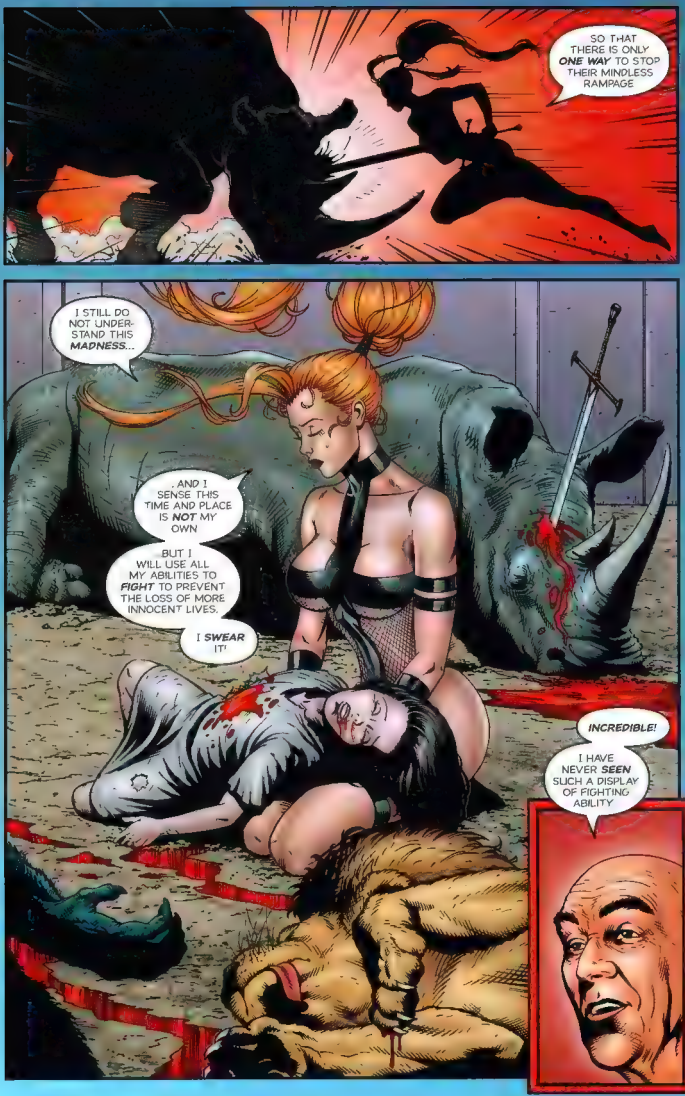

...AND ABOUT TO MEET OUR FATES IN THE COLISEUM!
GREETINGS, FATHER.
I SEE YOU ARE READY TO ENJOY ANOTHER DAY OF THE GAMES.
AH... HELLO, SABINA.
YES, THE GAMES ARE GOOD FOR ROME... AND ITS EMPEROR.
BUT NOT SO GOOD FOR OUR ENEMIES, OF COURSE.
OF COURSE. AND THE CAPTAIN TELLS ME WE HAVE A GOOD GROUP TODAY.
YES, A SPIRITED AND SOMEWHAT... UNUSUAL GROUP OF CHRISTIANS.
THEY DON'T LOOK MUCH LIKE WARRIORS...
...BUT THAT TOO CAN PROVE ENTERTAINING.
I'LL HELP YOU IF I CAN, LITTLE ONE...
...BUT I FEAR THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF MY TROUBLES.
THIS SEEMS FAMILIAR, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY, YET.

NOW... JUST TO SHOW YOU THE EMPEROR IS JUST AND FAIR...
...HE'S ALLOWING YOU TO HAVE THESE WEAPONS.
TOO BAD NONE OF YOU ARE TRAINED FIGHTERS...
...NOT THAT IT WOULD MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE WITH WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO FACE!
TIME TO SHOW THESE CHRISTIANS WHO IS REALLY THEIR LORD AND MASTER.
LET THE GAMES BEGIN!
RRAAAAAHURGH!
RRROAAAARR!!

THEY'RE ATTACKING. BLIND WITH RAGE...
...BUT COME ON, WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE!
GRAB SOME WEAPONS. HURRY!
NO STRANGER. WE HAVE NO CHANCE.
WE ARE NOT WARRIORS. BETTER TO USE WHAT LITTLE TIME WE HAVE LEFT...
...TO MAKE PEACE WITH GOD.
NOOOOOOO!!
AAHHHH!!

I... I'M BEGINNING TO REMEMBER.
I CAN FIGHT.
IT'S COMING BACK TO--
RRRRRR!
UGH!
RRAAAAARGH!!
TOO LATE FOR THESE PEOPLE...
...BUT IT'S STARTING TO COME BACK TO ME.
I AM A WARRIOR...
...AND I HAVE POWER!
KRAK KA
SH

POWER ENOUGH TO DEFEND *MYSELF*, AT LEAST.
IF ONLY SO I CAN GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS MYSTERY
AND PREVENT THESE ***WITLESS CREATURES*** FROM KILLING MORE INNOCENTS!
RRRRR!
SHRACK!!
STILL, I TAKE NO PLEASURE IN THIS
THESE ANIMALS HAVE ***OBVIOUSLY*** BEEN STARVED AND TORMENTED


SO THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP THEIR MINDLESS RAMPAGE
I STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND THIS MADNESS...
...AND I SENSE THIS TIME AND PLACE IS NOT MY OWN
...BUT I WILL USE ALL MY ABILITIES TO FIGHT TO PREVENT THE LOSS OF MORE INNOCENT LIVES.
I SWEAR IT!
INCREDIBLE!
I HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH A DISPLAY OF FIGHTING ABILITY

...BUT TELL ME, SABINA, WHO IS THAT WOMAN?
HELLO, SENATOR.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT I KNOW OF SUCH THINGS?
GREETINGS, LOVELY SABINA.
I THINK YOU KNOW OF SUCH THINGS BECAUSE I KNOW YOU.
I KNOW YOUR BEAUTY IS AS DANGEROUS AS IT IS SEDUCTIVE
AND I ALSO KNOW THAT EMPEROR DOMITIAN'S OWN FAMILY HATES HIM AS MUCH AS THE SENATE DOES
SO WHO WHAT IS THAT STRANGE WOMAN?
AND WHY IS SHE HERE?

YOU CAN HARDLY HOPE TO PULL OFF YOUR SCHEMES ALONE.
OH, I AM NOT ALONE IN THIS.
BUT I INTENDED TO INCLUDE YOU IN MY LITTLE DRAMA SOON ENOUGH.
THE WOMAN IS WHAT THE CHRISTIANS CALL AN ANGEL.
HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED, SENATOR...
...WHY MY FATHER HATES THE CHRISTIANS SO?
WHY HE HAD THE PHILOSOPHERS AND MEN OF SCIENCE BANISHED?
HE DOESN'T WANT US TO KNOW THAT THERE ARE POWERS GREATER THAN THE EMPEROR IN THIS WORLD.
GODS AND DEMONS AND MUCH, MUCH MORE.
SO COME SENATOR, LET US RETURN TO THE COLISEUM.
NOW THAT YOU KNOW WHAT SHE IS...

YOU WILL SOON SEE WHY THE CREATURE CALLED AVENGELYNE IS HERE
WELL, BESET, WHAT DOES YOUR MAGIC SHOW YOU?
SHE HAS ARRIVED AT THE PROPER TIME AND PLACE, VULCAN.
EXCELLENT! THEN THAT MEANS--
IT MEANS THE ANGEL IS IN THE PERFECT POSITION..
TO TRIGGER THE PROPHECIES OF THE APOCALYPSE!
TO BE CONTINUED...

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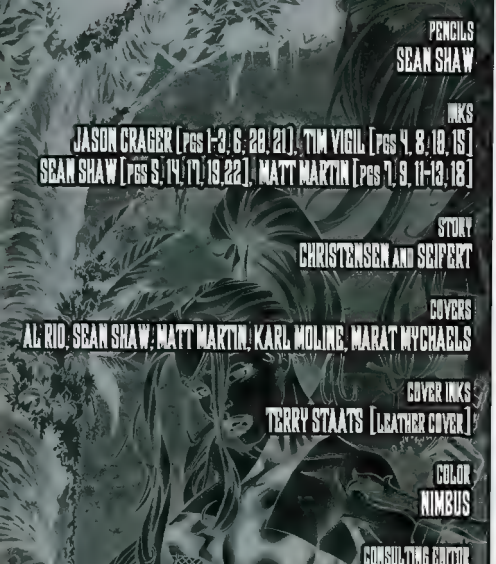

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AVENGELYNE

REVELATION
ISSUE ONE

Awakening with little memory of her power, or even her identity, Avengelyne finds herself among a group of persecuted Christians in Ancient Rome. What's worse, this hapless band is about to become entertainment for the Emperor — in mortal combat in the Coliseum.

But as Avengelyne is forced to fight to the death in this cruel spectacle, her powers and memories begin to reassert themselves. Still, she is unaware of the machinations of those around her, and resolves to find out why she is here in this time and place.

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ANCIENT ROME, 92 AD.
THE COLISEUM.
THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS TELL ME WE FIGHT AT THE COMMAND OF EMPEROR DOMITIAN AND HIS SCHEMING DAUGHTER SABINA.
I'M NOT SURE HOW I GOT HERE. EVEN THE MEMORY OF WHO I AM IS HAZY, BUT SOME THINGS ARE SLOWLY RETURNING TO ME.
I DO KNOW THIS -- I DO NOT LIKE KILLING MORTALS. BUT I CANNOT STAND BY AND LET THESE BLOODY WARRIORS CONTINUE THEIR CARNAGE. AND THERE IS SOMETHING OTHER THAN MORTAL DRIVING THEM.
THERE IS SOMETHING
SHHULK
...DEMONIC.

HURRAY! HURRAY!

THEY SEEM TO WANT HER TO WIN. YOUR MYSTERIOUS COMBATANT IS PROVING *TOO* POPULAR SABINA.
FEAR NOT MY FATHER SHE IS A ***BRAVE*** WARRIOR, BUT HAS NO CHANCE OF VICTORY

THE MEN ARE... PARTICULARLY ***MOTIVATED*** TO DESTROY THEM!
DIE, CHRISTIAN!
NO!

CHOOF
YOU ***DARE*** TO ATTACK AN UNARMED AND INJURED MAN?

RRAAGH!
ANOTHER COWARDLY ATTACK... FROM BEHIND WHILE I'M UNARMED?!?
THIS ISN'T EVEN SUPPOSED TO BE SPORT, IS IT?
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE SLAUGHTER.
WHY DO YOU HATE US SO?
WHAT POSSESSES YOU?
SHUNK

LOOK, THEY ARE FLEEING! WE'VE WON!
WAIT!
THE GATE IS OPENING
PERHAPS THEY ARE LETTING US LEAVE?
I THINK NOT, BEAUTIFUL WARRIOR
HUURUNK

AS I SMELLING THIS DEMONIC STENCH FROM 50 YARDS AWAY, I BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND..
BUT IF WE ARE MERELY TOYS IN A GREATER PLOT...
..THEN PERHAPS I SHOULD BE FIGHTING..
SHE'LL BE KILLED!
..WITH SOMETHING MORE THAN MY COMBAT SKILLS
..UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A CREATURE FROM HELL AND I AM HERE TO STOP IT. THERE MUST BE A POWERFUL FORCE USING US AS TOYS... BUT WHY?

I'LL FIGHT WITH MY MIND, MY HEART.
AND MY FAITH.
FAITH THAT I AM HERE FOR A REASON..
.. AND THAT I WILL BE SHOWN A WAY TO DEFEAT THIS EVIL.

THOUGH I TAKE NO JOY IN DEATH, I EXECUTE A SPECTACULAR FINAL MANEUVER..
WATCH CLOSELY, EMPEROR!
ONE DESIGNED TO WIN BOTH THE BATTLE..
YOU WILL SEE THAT YOU WILL NEVER DEFEAT OUR SPIRIT..
..AND SOMETIMES NOT EVEN OUR FLESH!
SHUUULK

... AND WIN THE CROWD AS WELL
NOW THE FEELING TOWARDS US CHRISTIANS...
HURRAY! HURRAY!
... SHOULD BE DECIDEDLY MORE POSITIVE
NOW, RELEASE US ALL!
OH NO, THEY LOVE HER! MY EMPIRE COULD BE RUINED BY THIS CHRISTIAN HARLOT!
SEND HER AWAY FOR NOW.
WE CAN QUICKLY TURN THE TIDES IN THE GREATEST GAME EVER. THE NEXT TIME SHE FIGHTS.
BUT SHE DEFEATED EVEN THAT EVIL CREATURE YOU BROUGHT IN WITH GREAT EASE.
DEAR FATHER, NEXT TIME YOU SHOULD BRING BACK NERO HIMSELF TO FIGHT HER.
HE IS THE GREATEST KILLER OF CHRISTIANS EVER, AND AS EMPEROR YOU HOLD THE POWER TO RESURRECT HIM WITH THE SCROLL OF REVELATION.
CAN THIS TRULY BE DONE?
I KNOW WHERE THE SCROLLS CAN BE FOUND. ALLOW ME TO GET THEM FOR YOU.

THAT VILE OLD MAN IS SOON TO BE OUT OF MY WAY AND I WILL RULE ROME!
AS SOON AS HE CONJURES UP NERO, MY NEW FRIENDS WILL REWARD ME WITH POWER. I'LL RULE OVER THE GREATEST ROMAN EMPIRE EVER!
ALLOW ME PASSAGE OR I'LL HAVE YOU BOILED ALIVE IN A KETTLE OF FILTH
MY LADY, YOUR GUESTS AWAIT
SO I FINALLY GET TO MEET MY MYSTERIOUS BENEFACTORS.
BESET? IT IS I, PRINCESS SABINA.
OH!

WELCOME, FAIR SADINA.
BELOW ME SITS VULCAN AND A FEW FRIENDS WE BROUGHT ALONG FOR OUR PLEASURE.
I AM DELIGHTED YOU DECIDED TO ACCEPT OUR OFFER WILLINGLY. THAT MAKES IT SO MUCH... CLEANER FOR US ALL.

THE SCROLL MUST BE READ BY THE EMPEROR IN THE COLISEUM TO BRING BACK NERO.
NOW COME AND COLLECT YOUR PRIZE
AND I WILL RULE WHEN THIS IS DONE?
WITH THE RETURN OF NERO AND THE DESTRUCTION OF AN ANGEL, THE HIGH FATHER HIMSELF WILL GET INVOLVED.
THIS INCIDENT WILL BRING ABOUT THE EVENTS IN THE CHRISTIAN WRITINGS CALLED REVELATION. TRUE ARMAGEDDON.
BUT THE RESULT WILL NOT BE WHAT THE MAKER HAS PLANNED. WHEN OUR FORCES ARE VICTORIOUS, YOUR EMPIRE WILL SPAN THE ENTIRE GLOBE AND YOUR POWER WILL BE THAT OF A GOD!
A NEW WORLD WITH YOU AS RULER OF THE HUMANS. NOW TAKE THE SCROLL...
FWASH
.. AND DO NOT FAIL ME!

THEY HAVE SCARCELY GIVEN ME A FEW HOURS REST BEFORE I HEAR THE CROWDS AGAIN CHANTING FOR BLOOD.
AND NOW I SENSE FAR GREATER EVIL AT WORK. IT IS TIME TO CUT OUT THE HEART OF THE BEAST.
HERE MY LIEGE, THE SCROLL.
AH, GOOD! NOW TO PROVE WHO HAS THE TRUE POWER!
GET OUT THERE!
PEOPLE OF ROME...
CHRISTIANS WISH TO LIVE AMONG YOU IN PEACE. BUT THEY WILL NOT BE LED LIKE LAMBS TO THE SLAUGHTER FOREVER.
THERE ARE FORCES AT WORK HERE BEYOND MORTAL UNDERSTANDING. AND SOMEDAY, THERE WILL BE A RECKONING... AND A DAY OF JUDGMENT. STOP THIS MADNESS BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!
YES, YES, ALL FINE AND GOOD.
BUT YOUR DAY OF RECKONING IS AT HAND. YOU CALLED HIM BEAST AND MARKED HIS NUMBER WELL. NOW BEHOLD THE HARBINGER OF DEATH!

RUMMMBLE
AT LAST...
NERO LIVES AGAIN!
BROOOMMM

NOW I WILL FINISH OFF THE CHRISTIAN FOOLS ONCE AND FOR ALL!
NERO? A DEMON WITH POWER LIKE A GOD! CAN I DEFEAT HIM?
NOW WE'LL SEE A REAL BATTLE AND TO MAKE SURE...
...LET'S BRING IN SOME MOTIVATION.
MAKE YOUR PEACE, STRANGER... I FEAR YOU HAVE SOUGHT US OUT JUST IN TIME TO DIE.
I SOUGHT YOU TO GAIN ENTRY TO THIS PLACE. I HAVE SOME BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO HERE.
THOUGH I AM NOT ONE OF YOU, CHRISTIANS, I HAVE A SAYING SIMILAR TO ONE OF YOUR OWN
...THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE.
ABANDON ALL HOPE, YOU ARE MINE!

YOU'LL HAVE TO GET THROUGH ME FIRST!
IT IS ALMOST TIME TO REVEAL MYSELF. NOW THAT I SEE WHAT BESET HAS BEEN UP TO...
I SENSE THAT YOU ARE AN ANGEL. GOOD. MY POWERS WILL ONLY BE ENHANCED BY FEEDING OFF YOUR ENERGY.
WHAT ARE THESE THINGS? MY SWORD PASSES THROUGH THEM BUT...
... I'M GETTING VERY WEAK

YOU ARE A MIGHTY WARRIOR INDEED. IT IS ALMOST A SHAME I HAVE TO KILL YOU LIKE THIS, INSTEAD OF IN TRUE COMBAT.
NERO! YOUR TIME ON THIS EARTH WILL BE SHORT LIVED INDEED. I AM GOING TO SEND YOU AWAY ONCE AGAIN... FOREVER!
PANDORA? NO!
FIRE OF THE GODS! I DIDN'T DRIVE THE DAGGER IN DEEP ENOUGH!

PANDORA!?
YES. I REMEMBER HER AND THE TIME AND PLACE I CAME FROM.
AND I FINALLY THINK...
USE YOUR ANGELIC SWORD THROUGH THE WOUND MY DAGGER MADE
... I KNOW EXACTLY WHY I AM HERE
GAAHH!

IT WORKED!
HE MAY NOT BE GOING BACK TO THE BOX, BUT HIS ENERGY IS BEING RELEASED FROM HIS FORM. HIS THREAT IS OVER
OH NO. NOW THERE ARE TWO OF THEM!
THIS HAS GONE HORRIBLY WRONG. I MUST LEAVE AT ONCE!
KILL THEM BOTH!
THE TAINT OF THIS DEMONIC EVIL IS UPON YOU AS WELL, EMPEROR...
... AND IT MUST END WITH YOU!
GUUU
GOODBYE FATHER
SAB...

MORE FOOLISH ROMANS WE HAVE TO FIGHT?

NO, MY WORK HERE IS DONE. I HAVE NO QUARREL WITH THESE SOLDIERS...

...AND THE LORD IS NOT THE ONLY ONE...

...WHO MOVES IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS.

YOU HELPED LIBERATE THE FAITH TODAY PANDORA, AND MUCH MORE.
NOW IT'S UP TO ME TO FIND THE ROOT OF THIS EVIL.
FAREWELL ANGEL, MAY WE MEET AGAIN SOMEDAY.
I'M SURE WE WILL.

NOW WHAT DO I DO ABOUT BESET?
MAYBE HE AND THE ANGEL WILL KEEP EACH OTHER BUSY WHILE I --
YOU! I HAVE A FEELING YOU ARE BEHIND MUCH OF MISERY AROUND HERE AND I WANT TO BE SURE IT STOPS RIGHT NOW!
SWOOF
SHE WON'T BE AROUND TO DO ANYTHING, AVENGELYNE!

I WARNED YOU ABOUT DISAPPOINTING ME, SABINA! PANDORA IS TOO CLOSE NOW. THE PLANS ARE A TOTAL FAILURE!
GASP!
SHHRAK
YOU MUST BE THE DEMON BEHIND ALL THIS! YOU'LL FIND ME BE A BIT HARDER TO KILL!
I THINK NOT.
I MAY HAVE FAILED TO USE YOU TO TRIGGER THE PROPHECIES OF ARMAGEDDON, BUT I STILL HAVE USE FOR YOU, LITTLE ANGEL.
FOR NOW, GO BACK FROM WHENCE YOU CAME!

THE PRESENT DAY. OFF THE COAST OF KOKOMO.
JESUS!
UHH... NOT QUITE, TANYA, BUT YOU'RE IN THE GENERAL VICINITY.
AAAH!
FWASH
WHEW. GLAD TO BE BACK.
BACK!? WE THOUGHT YOU WERE IN THE BATHROOM!* NEXT THING WE KNOW YOU'RE TELEPORTING ONTO THE SUN DECK!
* AVENGELYNE, ANNA, AND TANYA BEGAN THEIR CRUISE IN AVENGELYNE: BAD BLOOD #2.
IT'S A LONG STORY. BUT SINCE WE'RE STILL A WAYS AWAY FROM JUDGMENT DAY...
... AT LEAST I'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO TELL IT.
END.